Curtailing NSG cover to VIPs

1391. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eight VIPs are to lose NSG cover under the Government's new "personal security" policy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 11th February, 2000;

(b) whether under the new policy, the privileged protectees will not be entitled to Government accommodation and other fringe benefits etc; and

(c) if so, what is the Central Government's latest move/policy indicating likely savings thereby during the current financial year as compared to previous two years pertaining to VIP security related expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government have announced on 7.2.2000 New Policy on the security of individuals. As per the policy, security of individuals is required to be reviewed periodically on the basis of latest threat perception in each case. Government have a duty to see that persons in public life, who invite wrath of militants or terrorists are given due protection. Government also have a duty to ensure protection of common citizens. In order to ensure that adequate police force is available for the security of common citizen, Government continuously reviews deployment on personal security to ensure optimal use of the force. As per the revised policy, Ministry of Home Affairs will not recommend allotment or retention of Government accommodation on security consideration in any case.

The changes made in the security of individuals will result in some reduction in the expenditure on security of protectees.